



In this issue

Water safety	2
Grant programs	2
Access and Inclusion Strategy	3
Project update	4
Love where you live	5
Recycling and waste news	6
Australia Day Awards	7
Rural Tree Scheme	7
Service profile – Road Services	8

Get social and stay updated

 @CampaspeShireCouncil
 @campaspeshire
 #campaspeshire

Cover image – “Rushworth Forest”
by David King



Cnr Hare & Heygarth Streets
Echuca VIC 3564
PO Box 35 Echuca VIC 3564
P: 1300 666 535 | 03 5481 2200
E: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au
www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Campaspe Times Newsletter

October 2020

A time of change

With the sun shining for longer and spring in full bloom, many residents have started spring cleaning in preparation for the warmer months ahead. It is important we take appropriate measures to clear up potential fire hazards and to assist, Council will offer a free drop off of garden waste to Resource Recovery Centres across the shire between Tuesday, 13 October and Tuesday, 3 November.

The Council Election has recently taken place and the declaration of results, advising the successful candidates, will take place by the Victorian Electoral Commission on or before Friday, 13 November. Our December community newsletter will profile our elected Councillors.

One of the first priorities for the new Council will be developing the Council Plan - a plan which sets the strategic direction for the next four years. This is a key document for our organisation which informs other strategic plans.

COVID-19 and the various government responses to the pandemic across the country have rightly received much publicity over the last few months, but that's not to downplay by any means the impacts 'COVID' has had on us all in that time, and we know that those impacts

will continue to play out for some time to come.

It has certainly been a challenging time for families as aspects of our daily lives changed rapidly depending on the various restrictions that affected our health, child care, schooling, employment, recreation and our social lives.

And then there's the impact on local businesses and industries, while some have remained open, others were directed to temporarily close, and at times it was hard to work out why different rules seemed to be in play for different industries/locations, never mind the 'border community' complexities.

Hopefully we are entering the recovery phase when supporting each other and our local businesses will be paramount, so I encourage you to spend local and keep our local economies thriving. Here's wishing us all the very best for the remainder of the year and 2021!

In the meantime, Council continues to support the community through various funding programs, details of several ongoing funding programs are on page two.

Declan Moore
CEO



Water Safety

With spring upon us and the mercury slowly rising, outdoor activities and water sports are making a come back.

Whether you are on holidays, at home, or visiting friends and family, safety is an essential consideration when children are in or near the water.



There are two things that can stop a child from drowning – your eyes!

Almost every child in Campaspe is likely to be involved in some form of water activity this summer. That is why it is essential they have the skills to swim safely.

Last season, Lifesaving Victoria recorded the state's highest annual drowning toll in more than 20 years.

Water safety is a key priority for the Campaspe Aquatics and Leisure team who are busy training staff in preparation for the up-coming summer season.

Aquatics Operations Team Leader, Marcus Maher recently won the prestigious award with Lifesaving Victoria in the Education, Training and Industry Engagement Award category.

The training Marcus provides the Campaspe Aquatics and Leisure team ensures that staff have the capability and skills to keep the community safe at our eight pools.

Other water safety initiatives on the planning calendar for Campaspe Aquatics and Leisure include the Life Saving Victoria Bush Nippers Program, Watch around Water and the summer learn to swim program at participating outdoor pools.

Ongoing Grant Programs

Community projects, events and activities within Campaspe Shire often rely on funding opportunities provided by Council.

The following funding programs are open across the year:

- Responsive grants – maximum \$1,000, supporting community groups with urgent needs
- Donations – maximum \$500, supporting community groups outside other funding programs
- Junior development grants – funding to support individuals aged under 18 selected for state and international representation
- Community event sponsorship
 - o **Local community event** - A maximum cash contribution of **\$1,000** and negotiated in kind contribution to a maximum of \$5,000.



- o **Regional community events** - Maximum cash contribution of **\$5,000**, plus negotiated in kind support.

- Business and commercial events sponsorship – supporting events which charge an admission fee

A further two funding programs open in two rounds, March and August each year. Community grants

and Business Assistance grants.

Criteria apply for each funding program, with full details available on Council's website, including an online application form.

For further information contact Bobbi Aitken, Executive Assistant Community, in the first instance when planning your application on 1300 666 535.

Access and Inclusion Plan

Last year Council adopted a six year Access and Inclusion Strategy that demonstrates Council's commitment to equal participation for all people in Campaspe.

The strategy seeks to reduce the social, physical and financial barriers faced by members of the community.

The most significant change to Council's approach to Access and Inclusion was broadening priority groups in response to the changing nature of our community. These include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with disability, youth, LGBTIQ+, people with mental illness, older people, women, culturally diverse groups and people with social disadvantage. Now identified as Campaspe's Communities of Priority this is a commitment from Council to address the needs of the most at risk groups within the shire.

From this strategy, a two year action plan has been developed to achieve outcomes within the four key strategic objectives:

1. Plan and deliver Council services that enable access and inclusion.
2. Ensure Council's decision making process includes participation by, and with consideration for, Campaspe's Communities of Priority.



Vivid Work Crew installing signage.

3. Advocate for the needs of Council's identified Communities of Priority.
4. Develop and maintain partnerships with groups that support the needs of Council's Communities of Priority.

This is a whole of Council approach to access and inclusion which, in consultation with community groups, identifies services, projects and activities that Council will progress over the next two years. Progress reporting will occur every six months to ensure the four strategic objectives are met and the community is informed of Council's progress.

Council is working in partnership with the community on various initiatives including the Seniors Grants Program, Premiers' Active April,

Voice of our Youth Project and social enterprise employment with Vivid.

Council engages Vivid for employment opportunities including litter collection in the Echuca Port Precinct, roadsides and transfer stations; delivering food scrap caddies and flyers, and stripping and bailing foam mattresses.

Vivid Chief Executive Officer, Scott Alexander said Council and Vivid have had a strong history of collaboration over a number of years.

"Through projects such as the Litter Crew and food scrap caddy distribution, Council has provided the Work Crew (Vivid's supported employment business) with a range of opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in meaningful, paid employment in their community – opportunities which have, and continue to, deliver wonderful outcomes for all," Mr Alexander said.

"As CEO of Vivid, I congratulate Council for facilitating such a proactive partnership with us and many other agencies: The Campaspe Shire Access and Inclusion Strategy and action plan are a terrific representation of what Council can do in partnership with the community," he added.

The Access and Inclusion Strategy is an important step towards achieving Council's vision: To be strong, supportive, vibrant and sustainable.

For more information on Council's Access and Inclusion Strategy, type 'access' or 'inclusion' in the search bar on Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au



Vivid Work Crew and Council working in partnership on Clean Up Australia Day.

Project update

INITIATION

PROJECT
PLANNING

DESIGN

PROCUREMENT

DELIVERY

REVIEW AND CLOSURE
(COMPLETED)



Girgarre park is home to the Farmers Produce and Craft Market.

Girgarre Park

Girgarre automated irrigation

Delivery phase
\$50,000

Girgarre is a small Campaspe town with big community spirit. The Girgarre public park and recreation area plays host to markets, music festivals and caravan/motorhome stays.

The park is maintained by volunteers and watered manually by hand. Local volunteer, John Wood has dragged around long hoses, keeping the gardens and lawn alive for around 15 years. To have a green park and less labour is a welcome change - one the community is extremely grateful for.

Over the past 12 months, Council's Project Management team has been working in consultation with the Girgarre Development Group on an automated irrigation system for the area.

Works have started with designs drawn up and alterations applied to suit the area's multi use. Installation of the fully automated watering system will be completed during spring.

President of the Girgarre Development Group, Jan Smith said the park is a busy area and the project is a substantial win for the community.

"As a development group, we like to highlight the contribution Council provides our community. It has been a delight working with Council's Project Manager, Craig, on the project and we are very blessed," Ms Smith said.

"We look forward to a sustainable future."

Pool repaint program

Swimming pool renewal

Delivery phase
\$80,000

The Kyabram and Stanhope outdoor pools have been freshly painted in time for the start of the busy summer pool season.

Crack repairs and three layers of rubberised chlorinated paint were applied to ensure the longevity of the outdoor pool shells.

Repainting the pool shell will help protect it and improve water cloudiness. It will also assist in controlling filtration, higher chlorine levels and excessive algae growth.

As part of a seven year program, this project is part of a rolling program of capital renewal painting and tile repairs for all Council owned pools. It follows on from the painting of the Lockington and Colbinabbin pool shells prior to the 2019/20 summer season.

BEFORE



AFTER



Raising the flag on local tourism

Campaspe Shire is home to many townships renowned for their ambience and unique history.

Council has an agreement in place with Echuca Moama and District Tourism Association to provide destination marketing and visitor services. The movement of visitors into and across our many townships provides an opportunity for discovery as well as valuable tourism dollars to be spent. With COVID lockdowns, this is now more important than ever.

When out and about in Echuca's CBD, you may have spotted some attractive new flags flying high. These flags are part of a new series promoting visiting our neighbouring areas.



Flags are rotated regularly and add colour and movement into the CBD areas. The new town series are a visual reminder to locals and visitors of the iconic attractions and must do activities available across the shire.

#lovewhereyoulive

The street flags in Echuca's CBD are usually used to promote events however this initiative is a timely opportunity to share the love across our region as we approach peak season.

Shedding the Fauna Park Reptile House

The Kyabram Fauna Park is home to more than 600 native Australian animals – including reptiles!

Council has a long-standing relationship with the Kyabram Fauna Park and understands the value of the park in providing economic and social benefits for the region.

The park is on land partly owned by Campaspe Shire Council, with the remainder on Crown Land managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The DELWP Committee of Management oversees the management of the park and is made

up of members from Loddon Mallee DELWP and Council.

A Master Plan developed by the Committee of Management identifies opportunities for upgrades and new developments in line with the park's vision to be northern Victoria's premier wildlife attraction.

One identified improvement is the replacement of the reptile house. The Fauna Park Reptile House replacement project has been jointly funded with grants of \$250,000 from DELWP, \$200,000 from Murray Darling Basin Authority and \$200,000 from Council.

The project will see the existing building demolished and replaced. It also includes repairs to the pedestrian bridge. Concept designs for the reptile house are now underway and once complete, the project will move into detailed design.



Are you following?

Council is committed to staying in touch with you, **so get social!**

Stay updated on the latest council news by following us on Facebook.

We're also on
Instagram + Twitter

Resource Recovery Centres in Campaspe

Council has eight resource recovery centres, located in Colbinabbin, Echuca, Gunbower, Lockington, Mount Scobie, Rochester, Rushworth and Toolleen.

There are lots of items that can be taken to most of our centres for FREE:

- Batteries - car and household
- Co-mingled recycling - plastic, glass, aluminium, steel, containers/bottles and jars
- Large cardboard and paper
- Chemical drums - drumMUSTER approved (Echuca, Mt Scobie and Rochester)
- Clothing (Echuca and Mt Scobie)
- E-waste - tv, computer, printers, etc
- Fencing wire (tightly bundled)
- Fluorescent light tubes
- Gas bottles - up to 9kg
- Mobile phones
- Motor oil
- Paint tins - empty
- Polystyrene (Echuca and Mt Scobie)
- Scrap metal
- Silage wrap (Echuca and Mt Scobie)
- Steel water tanks (Echuca and Mt Scobie)
- Soft plastics (Echuca)
- Whitegoods - washing machines, dryers, microwaves
- X-rays

For materials to be recycled at the centres, they must be sorted. By taking a little extra time to sort your load, you will



Electronic waste is accepted at centres free of charge.

not only ensure items are recycled correctly, but sorting your load can also save you money.

Although various waste products can be recycled, some items do attract a charge. This charge covers the cost to Council for processing and transporting the material. These include:

- Garden organic waste (charged per m3) \$17
- Refrigerators and air conditioners \$19 (degassing charge)
- Mattress – single \$12
- Mattress – double/queen/king \$17
- Tyres (cost varies, depending on size)

For more information and to find your closest resource recovery centre go to Council's website.

Get a green bin and pay less

We have officially hit the warmer weather and now is the time to get ready and clean up in preparation for the fire season.

Take advantage of Council's offer and clean up your property with free garden organics drop off at all Campaspe Resource Recovery Centres between Tuesday, 13 October and Tuesday, 3 November.

It is also the perfect time for residents in township areas to get a green bin for garden waste (and food scraps) - if you don't already have one.

Reducing fuels such as long grass, fallen leaves, twigs and dead branches from around the home is essential to avoiding house fires. It also deters unwelcome guests common to our area.



Did you know that by ordering a green bin you will receive a reduced charge for your kerbside waste bin on your rates? All residents in township areas with a green bin kerbside service are

already receiving the reduced charge for their waste bin, so what are you waiting for?

How does it work?...

If you have the smallest 80 litre waste bin and no green bin, order your green bin today and only pay an extra \$5 on your annual waste charges!

If you have the medium 140 litre waste bin and no green bin, order your green



bin today and pay \$10 less on your annual waste charges!

By getting a green bin some residents have found that they have less waste going into their waste bin and can downsize to the smaller waste bin size option saving them more money.

Green bins for food and garden waste come in two sizes – large 240 litre and medium 140 litre - to help households with less space to store the bin, or little, or no garden.

To order a green bin and get a choice of free food scrap caddy, visit Council's website at: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au and click on 'Waste and recycling', or call us on 1300 666 535.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss the best bin combination for your household, please contact Council's Environmental Projects Officer – Organics on 5481 2200.



2021 Australia Day Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Australia Day Awards which recognise and celebrate the contributions and outstanding service of individuals within our community.

Nominations are open in two categories: **Citizen of the Year** (must be 25 years or older), and **Young Citizen of the Year** (must be between 15 and 25 years). They can be made across five geographic areas:

- Echuca and district
- Rochester and district
- Tongala and district
- Kyabram and district
- Rushworth and district.

It doesn't matter who you are, or where you're from, it's the notable effort in providing outstanding service to our community that distinguishes nominees.

The key attributes nominees share is their unwavering desire to make Campaspe a better place. This could be for charity work, dedication to a worthy cause, or ongoing volunteer commitment to sport, youth development, seniors' programs, the arts, disability, or community services.

Winners will be announced on Australia Day in each of the five geographic areas, with the overall shire winners also announced on the day.



Online nomination forms for the 2021 Australia Day Awards can be filled out on our website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au.

Nominations close on Friday, 4 December at 5pm.

Rural Tree Scheme - Now Open

Rural zoned landowners can improve their property's landscape by purchasing native seedlings for a subsidised cost through Council's Rural Tree Scheme.



Bianca and Ryan Caldwell with some of the flora they planted through the Rural Tree Scheme.

There are around 40 indigenous plant species to choose from, which range from groundcovers that grow to less than a metre, to trees that will grow more than 30 metres high. All are well suited to the Campaspe climate and various soil types.

The maximum number of plants that can be purchased is determined by the property size.

Council, along with local landcare groups, can assist with providing advice on species selection and site preparation.

Landowners are encouraged to contact participating nurseries to negotiate pickup times prior to the end of June 2021. Autumn is generally the best time to arrange pickup and do the planting.

Orders will be taken up to 1 November, or when the allocated funds have been exhausted.

Order forms, including a full list of available species, are available on Council's website or from customer service centres.

Council Meetings

Council meetings are currently being conducted online during COVID restrictions - please refer to our website for updates.

Meetings are held in Echuca and start at 5pm and are streamed live on Council's website. The agenda is available on our website the Friday before each meeting.



Upcoming meeting

Restricted agenda - elected Councillors to take the Oath of Office.



Monthly meeting

Register Your Community Group

Free website listing available to community groups in Campaspe Shire.



Register now at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Service profile

Road Services

Council maintains a vast road network of more than 4,000 kilometres. This includes 1,147 kilometres of sealed roads, 2,440 kilometres of gravel roads and 551 kilometres of earth roads.

The Road Services team is responsible for maintaining the service level of the road network in accordance with Council's adopted plans and policies.



Additionally, the team is responsible for developing the Capital Works Program for roads, bridges, footpaths, kerb and channel, and stormwater drainage systems.

The safety of community members and road users is considered a high priority when developing the annual capital projects. The team is committed to developing a long-term program for sustainable infrastructure management across the shire.

Roads make up Council's largest expenditure item. This year around \$15 million will be spent on maintaining and upgrading the local road network.

An ongoing annual road maintenance schedule is developed following inspections of all Council-owned roads each and every year.

Maintenance activities can include:

- minor sealing
- weeding
- shoulder repairs
- tree trimming
- line marking
- minor patching
- spraying
- rural drainage cleaning
- grading
- slashing
- sign replacement

#campaspeservices

Did you know?

The total roadside area mowed across Campaspe Shire once over is equivalent to mowing the MCG oval 1,873 times?!

Council encourages the community to report road concerns through the online service request system at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au or by calling 1300 666 535.

Bridges

Council maintains 64 bridges, as part of its road network. Bridges undergo routine maintenance and are regularly assessed for structural capacity. Some bridges have a load limit applied due to their poor condition.

Gravel road resheeting

A program for resheeting gravel roads is developed annually, with inspections and assessments carried out every two years.

Resheeting works across the 2,400 kilometre gravel road network is prioritised, according to traffic volume, the type of traffic the road carries and other factors such as the number of homes along the road.

With the added benefit of \$2.6 million in funding received from the Federal Government to upgrade local roads and community infrastructure in 2020/21, Council has prioritised a list of 52 projects to be undertaken across the shire. These include gravel road stabilising and shoulder works, culverts - new and upgrades, street trees, road line marking, footpaths and lighting.

Resurfacing Campaspe's roads

Council has recently completed its annual Sealed Road Resurfacing program.

The \$2.27 million program saw 79 roads sealed across the shire along with line marking and an additional eight asphalted roads.

Whilst roads are usually sealed with an emulsion (tar) and rock, recent works in Murray Esplanade and Radcliffe Street, Echuca saw the use of coloured stone to provide a lighter colouring in keeping with the precinct's heritage.

